



PAUL R. LEPAGE  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



PATRICIA W. AHO  
COMMISSIONER

March 3, 2015

Regional Freedom of Information Officer  
U.S. EPA, Region 1 (OARM01-6)  
Suite 100  
5 Post Office Square  
Boston, MA 02109-3912

Re: FOIA Request (EPA Decision on Water Quality Standards Revisions)

To Whom It May Concern:

In a letter dated February 2, 2015, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a series of approvals and disapprovals of Maine's surface water classifications and corresponding designated uses for waters in the state of Maine (including waters adjacent to Indian lands), and Maine's new and revised water quality standards (WQS). The EPA failed to provide adequate, substantive, and satisfactory explanations for the conclusions and decisions reached in this letter, as required by section 303 (c) (3) of the Clean Water Act. In a follow up telephone call to me on February 3, 2015, one or more persons at the EPA stated that documents exist or may exist providing additional information or elaboration regarding the rationale and basis for EPA's decision, including but not limited to alternative calculations for numeric water quality standards and potential impact to licensed dischargers.

Therefore, pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. Section 552) I am requesting all print and electronic documents, including letters, notes, electronic communications (e-mail), and work product and other documents (handwritten or otherwise) produced and/or relied upon in reviewing the Maine Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) new and revised water quality standards and developing the February 2, 2015 letter from EPA Regional Administrator H. Curtis Spalding and corresponding attachments transmitted to DEP on February 3, 2015. These documents should include, but should not be limited to:

- 1) Any inter-agency emails and written communications regarding this issue.
- 2) Memos, briefs, hand written notes, drafts of the aforementioned letter of February 2 and drafts of attachments to the letter, and all other work product which formed the basis for the EPA's statements and decisions.

Thank you for your time and attention to this issue. I look forward to your response within 20 working days, as outlined by the Freedom of Information Act.

Sincerely,

Patricia W. Aho  
Commissioner

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